

**SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2002**

PRESENT: Norman Johnson, Harold Lyman, Duane Lyman, Richard Myer, Pace Hansen, Deb Dull, Bill McDougald, Ira Hatch, Kirk Sitterud, Anne Mackiewicz, Gary Oliver, Don Larson, Karl Kraync, and Nancy Bentley.

GUESTS: Brett Gehlind, Peggy Harrison, Marreen Casper, Roberta Hardy, April Durrant, Joel Tate, Joe Downer, Brett Behling and Dan Jarrell.

STAFF: Judy Chambley, Pattie Hansen, Delena Fish, Steve Jensen, Roger Sparks, Sheryl Nisely, Joan Crozier, Shelly Ivie, Bob Gilbert, Doug Horsley, Darrin Brush and Mary Zorn.

WELCOME: Norman Johnson, Chairperson Southeastern Regional Staff, welcomed the members to the meeting. Norman introduced two new members to the council Duane Lyman and Pace Hansen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The chairperson entertained a motion to approve the last meeting minutes. Harold Lyman/Karl Karync, all approved none opposed.

EMPLOYMENT CENTER UPDATES:

BLANDING EC:

Stephen Jensen presented the Blanding EC update:

- *The USADA Rural Development for Utah and Idaho has committed to make the necessary funding available to bring more home ownership opportunities to Native Americans.
- *The construction is well underway on the 3.24 million 4th reservoir water project, which will provide a two-year storage.
- *Fate of the Atlas Mill tailings is back to drawing board and is on hold until further study concerning the handling of the toxic waste material.
- *The Blanding Youth Detention Center is to be finished in May, which will provide 30-40 new jobs.
- *ALCO opened a new store in Blanding. Alco management used DWS services almost exclusively to hire 35-40 people.
- *The sewing factory located in Montezuma Creek is negotiating reopening after receiving a grant from the USDA Rural Development and will provide 70 jobs for customers on the reservations.
- *The USADA Rural Development for Utah has awarded a grant in the amount \$800,000 dollar project to replace the current water pipeline tunnel from Indian Creek to Johnson Creek.

*Bull Hollow Race Way made its debut in August. The races were attended by outside riders and spectators.

*Monticello Golf Course now has 18 holes completed.

*DWS recently released \$2000.00 to Monticello, which will be held in escrow by DWS from the "Custom Fit Program". The money will be used to fund a new multi-colored brochure advertising Monticello's business and the community.

*Chris Johnson, administrator for the GEAR UP Program in Blanding presented an update on this program. The program focuses on gaining early awareness and readiness for students and one of the goals is to significantly increase high school graduation and/or going on to a secondary schooling after graduation from high school. The grant was for five years in which the first four years have been focusing on TANF eligible students to reach their high school education. Over 100 students have been assisted using this program. The program course is 6 weeks long at four hours per day.

Recently the program sent 50 students down to NAU University in Arizona to give them hands-on view of math and science programs. This gave the students a meaningful insight into how math and science programs will assist them in their futures. Gear up takes every opportunity possible to get students on campus to give them a taste of college life. The certificates that the students are awarded are based on what their interests are and to give them the education.

PRICE EC:

Roger Sparks gave the briefing for his EC. Roger presented a listing of the largest employers in the Carbon County area for the council members to review per their request at the last council meeting.

*Unemployment rate continues to rise in Carbon County.

*Thru SEUSBIF there have been 17 new business start ups in Carbon County.

*Price EC Eligibility critical outcome rate is 95.7 and timeliness is between 95-100%.

*Appreciation luncheon in honor of staff and those who were involved in the remodeling of the Price EC.

*SEUSBIF contract monitoring was recently reviewed and the results were very rewarding. A recent article in the Salt Lake Tribune reviewed this program and its success.

*Carbon County Facts Sheet – Outcomes of job orders and placements were listed on this handout. Total population shows that the population of Carbon County is decreasing per this information. Also included were the city population facts as well as the labor force stats.

*The Pinnacle Canyon Youth Contract monitoring was completed and several areas of improvement have been noted. DWS is working the Pinnacle Canyon to correct the information lacking and bring them up to compliance.

*Mini Job Fair was conducted on September 18th, 2002 at the Price EC and was sponsored by DWS, Chamber Commerce, Small Business, Pacific Corp and the Small Business Association. The businesses such as Wal-Mart whom hired 60 applicants,

Discovery and also Block Buster were present to interview and hire applicants on the site of this jobs fair. There were a total of 250-300 individuals attend.

*The Veterans Rep in the Price EC, Sylvia Vigil, has left the agency for employment with the Dept. of Health.

CASTLE DALE EC:

Delena Fish presented for the Castle Dale EC:

*Recently DWS participated in the Emery High Career Fair with topics such as apprenticeships and job opportunities.

*The Castle Dale Building is under construction and progressing well. This building will have a conference room to accommodate large groups. Completion will be November 1, 2002 and hopefully will be occupied sometime in December 2002.

*The Console Mine is starting to hire applicants. They have hired a total of 15 and have indicated that there are more to come. Resumes are currently being taken for these positions at DWS.

*The Job Connection Service evaluation was recently completed and the workers were highly commended on the services they are providing to employers.

*The annual Veterans Audit has been completed and Castle Dale received a very good rating in all areas.

MOAB EC:

*DWS recently sponsored a Hazwopper training, which is a 40-hour initial training and an 8-hour refresher course. A total of 15 individuals received their certifications from this training.

*Job connection activities were reviewed and compared with previous years.

*The new computer program for DWS UWORKS is up and running;

*As a result of community interest in the medical coding opportunity, DWS has had a major increase in applications for training services.

*As of September 7, 2002, over 144 individuals were enrolled in employment counseling services thru the Moab EC. A break down was reviewed in the packet given each member.

*In August, the Moab Employment Center was part of a National Study on the Workforce Investment Act. Moab represented Utah in the rural aspect. The individuals conducting the study met with workforce partners, REHAB, Hire education, etc., to get a feel for how services are provided. The reviews from the reviewing panel were very favorable and the Moab EC should receive a great write, which they deserve for the excellent service they provide their customers.

Moab EC Continued:

*Eligibility services were reviewed with a total of 40 cases edited with a 99+ accuracy rate on all cases reviewed.

*DWS Veteran's Conference was held in Moab. At this conference, the Moab office took the opportunity to have the dedication of the new flagpole at the Moab EC. The local American legion conducted the ceremony.

*Transportation grant – Met with group that will be operating this grant and legal aspects have been resolved.

*Interagency agreement has been written with the InterAct Club for the chronically ill for transportation for these customers. The club is under the umbrella of Four Corners Mental Health. The issues of insurance and liability will be covered un Four Corners Policies.

CONTRACT MONITORING REPORT

Judy Chambley indicated that several months ago a team of regional staff were selected to review the various contracts in Eastern Region. Russell King in Vernal and Jo Jo Gale has been selected to monitor. Bob Gilbert is overseeing the monitoring of these contracts.

Bob Gilbert reviewed the monitoring results with the members. The SEUSBIF program was monitored on Aug 1. A total of 9 of the 30 contracts that have received money from this funding were reviewed. Three of the business under the SEUSBIF umbrella were visited; the Family Flicks, Green House and a Telephone Advertising business. All of the files for these businesses were found to have excellent documentation and tracking of business procedures in place.

Pattie Hansen, Regional Program Specialist, is actively involved in the monitoring of the youth programs at Pinnacle Canyon. Of the 16 cases that were edited it was found that the eligibility information was not available, the program employment plans were incomplete, the services were being provided with the 10 critical elements in mind but not being documented and there was no utilization of the UWORKS system. A letter of compliance was sent to the LIC and later a termination letter was sent to end the contract. Pattie then met with the LIC staff to discuss the situation and in the two weeks since that letter was sent it has been negotiated to continue the program for now. However there will be close monitoring of this program and in the event that it falls into noncompliance there will be a two weeks notice of termination issued.

All programs will eventually be monitored to ensure compliance with the guidelines of the grants. The members requested that a monitoring report be giving at the next council Meeting. Shelly Ivie, the Eastern Regional Program Manager, will follow-up on those reports and report at the next council meeting.

ACTION: SHELLY IVIE WILL FOLLOWUP ON MONITORING OF CONTRACTS AND BRING BACK A REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF EACH CONTRACT.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT:

Judy Chambley expressed her appreciation for the effort that Roberta Hardy has made to ensure that the LIC will properly enforce the current Pinnacle Canyon youth contract. The lack of documentation is now being entered into the UWORKS system by her staff in the DWS Price Office and they are working diligently to correct the information.

*The recent Job Seeker Survey results were reviewed. The results were given to the managers of the Eastern Region Employment Centers. Judy Chambley will provide the results of this survey for the council members at the next council meeting.

ACTION: JUDY CHAMBLEY WILL PROVIDE THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT JOB SEEKER SURVEY CONDUCTED FOR DWS CUSTOMER.

EPAC CONFERENCE:

The Eastern Region Staff recently attended the EPAC Conference in Price. The conference was motivational and very informative. The theme of the conference was "DWS Goes Hollywood." The employees attended workshops that Healthy Utah conducted on money management, stress reduction, healthy living, etc.

STUDY OF LONG TERM WELFARE RECIPIENTS IN UTAH:

Judy Chambley briefly reviewed the results of the survey conducted by the University of Utah on customers interviewed that have been terminated from the welfare rolls. The report indicated that Workforce Services needs a mechanism in place to work long term with terminated clients. Currently the customers come in four months before the financial assistance ends and receive assistance from the employment counselors to help them plan for the future. However, 25 % of the clients do not attend this planning session. Currently, once the customers leave they are not worked with but Workforce Services needs to find a way to follow up with individuals and their progress or regress. Recommendations were included in this report. Judy Chambley will provide this information to the council.

ACTION: JUDY CHAMBLEY WILL SEND RESULTS OF STUDY OF LONG TERM WELFARE RECIPIENTS IN UTAH AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL MEMBERS.

PINNACLE CANYON REPORT:

Robert Hardy reviewed the confusion that was surrounding the unfortunate handling of the contract with the Pinnacle Canyon Youth Contract. She indicated that the academy is a charter school and do not have their own physical agents. An admin team is over the LIC and the feeling of Pinnacle was that the admin team should not tell them what to do. They are very good at working with the youth that they serve but not with documentation.

Therefore the role of the physical agency role has changed and Roberta Hardy has taken over that role. In the future Roberta Hardy and the Pinnacle staff working with this contract will attend weekly meetings to ensure that every child is staffed weekly and the computer information is being timely and correctly entered. Her staff have been entering the information on the UWORKS computers currently 6 hours per day for the last two weeks at the Price Employment Center. The staff have been instructed on the proper codings, access to the UWORKS site, etc., which will facilitate greater management.

The staff will also be meeting bi-weekly with the DWS Staff to discuss the youth progress and compliance efforts. Roberta indicated that this contract is one of the better pieces of work the LIC has been affiliated with in a very long time. The efforts are there and the LIC is very creative in finding jobs for the youth.

One concern Roberta had was that the Carbon County students were placed in the school district as janitorial staff because there are not many jobs available for a yearlong employment. The grant is to look forward to long-term jobs that will be fulltime or part time employment as this is a yearlong program not just a summer program. Roberta indicated that the job sites are going to be better developed , that program objects and paper work will be completed and in compliance.

Roberta Hardy also mentioned that the LIC was under the umbrella for FACT and that the funding has been lost for this program. However, grants are being approached to fund the LIC. This change is that the LIC's is therefore refining how they do business because they will not be receiving state funding.

A motion was requested to extend the Pinnacle Canyon Contract for an additional year with the stipulation that two weeks notice would be given if found in noncompliance.

MOTION: Debra Dull/Karl Kraync – For the Pinnacle Canyon Contract to be extended for a year with the stipulation that there would be two weeks termination notice. Vote was taken, all approved and none opposed.

SEUSBIF:

Karl , Vocational Rehab, reviewed the SEUSBIF program and where it began for the new members. The program began October 1, 2001. The grant was obtained from the Utah Dept. Of Workforce Services and Southeastern Utah Association of Local Government's was chosen as the host institution. SEUSBIF is a collaboration of many agencies all working toward one goal "Develop New Jobs in Southeast Utah". SEUSBIF was created to find alternative means of assisting low to moderate-income individuals with at least one dependent child to begin a new business that will support the family.

Each member was given a brochure prepared by the Southeastern Utah Small Business Investment Fund. The information contained the various partners and agencies in support of the program. That the grant had been provided by the Dept. of Workforce Services.

Regional Impacts 310 total jobs created with 3.36 per investment, and \$1,057,760 leveraged funds. The benefits to the Eastern Region customers are comprehensive business training, enhancement of local economic opportunities, and initiating positive change in an under served population. The measurements for the success are new jobs developed in Southeast Utah, Public/Private Partnerships and 2.77 year return on investment.

Brett Behling from SEUSBIF also briefed the members that there is currently a waiting list of 49 individuals wanting to participate in the SEUSBIF classes. However, there is only a capacity of 20 individuals per class. The cost per job created from this program has been under \$2700.00. Since October \$350,000 in grant money has been provided to customers with a leverage of over \$1 million from other sources. Various new business created are beauty salons, restaurants, etc., and the diversity is incredible. The reason for the success is that the advisory board screens prospective business for those that will not be successful.

Dan Jarrell from Voc Rehab has been a part of the screen process of prospective business in the Grand Co area. Thru this process two successful businesses have been started in the Moab area. The owners of these businesses presented their history to the council.

Mr. Joe Downer began a long road to recovering from a Meth addiction, but thru the efforts of Vocational Rehab he was able to enter a treatment program to overcome this addiction. He was then able to enroll in training that would enable him to begin preparing himself for a contractor's license; which he has completed the training and has obtained his contractors license. He participated in the classes for the SEUSBIF program and was award funding to start his own construction business. He is now the proud owner of his own construction business that has now expanded to doing nuclear testing. He is truly proof of the success that this program has provided. Mr. Downer expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to receive the training and assistance to begin his own construction with the aid of Voc Rehab, SEUSBIF and Workforce Services.

Miguel's Baja Grill - The proud owners Miguel and Carrie opened one of the first businesses that SEUSBIF entered into a partnership with. They originally opened their business in May 2001 in Moab. However, they wanted to expand their business to include a liquor license which seemed to be unreachable for them at that they. The state was requiring certain renovations and repairs for before consideration before a liquor license would be possible. However, they had made contact with Jeri Hamilton in the Price area where the grant came into play. Before being awarded the grant money there were only 8 positions for employees and then only 6 were filled by full time employees. After receiving the grant money they were able to take the part time employees and hire them full time as well as obtaining a liquor license. Since that time the business revenues have increased since May 2002 when they received their liquor license. The wages for their employees have increased. The classes helped the couple set down to develop a business plan and how to get there. They expressed their appreciation for the grant and indicated that without this grant they may not have reopened this last spring.

UPDATE ON STATE ACTIVITIES:

Darin Brush, from the Executive Directors Office, gave a presentation on the current state activities. First of all and foremost Darin expressed appreciation for the leadership that is shown in each of the Employment Centers in the Eastern Region. He also indicated that. The success in the Moab Office is extremely wonderful and should receive a great write up.

*Darin expressed that Raylene Ireland, Workforce Services Executive Director, is very passionate about moving forward with the governor's economical development as it reflects on rural Utah, i.e. SEUSBIF. She is also concerned that staff are cared for and taken care of.

*The 1000 Day vision was reviewed and economic development does not go anywhere without workforce development.

*Darin reviewed that a total of \$550,000 dollars has been given to the SEUSBIF partnership, however this block grant will end in a few days. Further funding is not apparent at this time, as congress has not currently taken up the issue of this grant as of yet. The house has passed a similar version of the bill that is not friendly for Utah but the senate has not picked it up and the white house has a different vision. Hopefully there will receive a continued resolution for now.

*On Nov 4th DWS will launch the self-directed job connection system. This will enable employers to look on line at prospective applicants, be able to screen for applicants on line without any mediation from DWS. Individuals will also be able to look on line for positions and apply on their own. This new system will allow DWS staff to focus on other areas of concern as we are doing more with less.

FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

The ASM for Eastern Region Douglas Horsley presented on current facilities updates. He also mentioned the five year plan that must be submitted and covered the areas that are in need of review by the members that was included in the packet.

*The Price EC is completed and in compliance with the EC Design.

*The East Carbon EC has acquired space and is being staffed 4 days a week.

*The Green River site is manned twice a month and has been able to use facilities in the Emery Co. Sheriffs Office and is very successful.

*The Castle Dale facility is under construction and should be completed by December. The office name will be changed to the Emery Co. EC.

*The Moab EC is completed and in compliance with EC Design.

*The old uranium avenue site is currently going out on bid and is up for sale.

*The Monticello EC is continuing to be manned out of the Blanding Office.

*The Blanding EC is waiting for funding before is remodel.

YOUTH REPORTS:

Pattie Hansen reviewed the current youth updates in the absence of Bonnie Cook. Pattie indicated that the information sent out concerning the youth served, etc. will be resent to the members as a revision of the report as the information in the packets given on the WIA youth as the numbers of youth served are much higher than reported.

APPROVAL OF TRAINING PROVIDER:

The council reviewed the application submitted by the Four Corners Regional Care Center to conduct the San Juan Nursing Home C N A program. The members felt that this is a very stable business and agreed that the funding should be approved.

MOTION: Karl /Harold Lyman. To approve the application for funding for the Four Corners Regional Care Center to conduct the San Juan Nursing Home C N A Program. Vote taken, all approved and none opposed. Motion approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

INVESTIGATOR AND PAYMENT SPECIALIST POSITIONS:

Pattie Hansen gave a brief summary of what the new investigator and payment specialist's positions entailed. In 1999 the Department of Workforce Services was sanctioned for food stamp errors. A plan was devised to hire investigators to help in recovering and investigating fraudulent claims made by clients. On Sep. 3, 2001 three investigators were hired for the Eastern Region (Stanley Nez to serve Blanding and Moab, Lorraine Martin to serve Roosevelt and Vernal, and Kelly Law to serve Price and Castle Dale). To date the total recovered by the investigators is \$117,000.125 that were referred over to the Office of Recovery Service.

In 2000 the collections of overpayments was discussed as Utah only ranked 46th in the nation for collection of overpayments. DWS again devised a plan to hire Payment Specialists whom would be working closely with the Employment Counselors to receive referrals for overpayments and assist in the collection of these over payments. Kim Hathaway and Kassandra Asay were hired as the Payment Specialists for the Eastern and Mountainlands Regions; they are located in the Eastern Regional Price Office. Success stats so far include:

Eastern Region

July 2002-

Incoming Referrals 47 (20 with food stamps attached)

Completed Overpayments were a total of 31 with a savings of \$13,744.00.

August 2002:

Incoming Referrals -81 (of which 38 with food stamps attached)

Completed Overpayments total 66 with a savings of \$23,780.00

Mountainlands Region

July 2002:

Incoming Referrals – 40 (6 included food stamps attached)

Completed Overpayments total 18 with a savings of \$4931.00

August 2002:

Incoming Referrals total was-67 (25 included food stamps attached)

Completed Overpayments total 49 with a savings of \$17,647.00

PILOT PROGRAM FOR ORS:

Kim Hathway and Kassandra Asay, the Payment Specialists for Eastern Region and Mountainlands Region have been asked to pilot a program for the Office of Recovery Services. This pilot was developed due to the success the payment specialists have shown for Eastern Region and Mountainlands concerning the incoming referrals agency errors, household errors and intentional program violations.

CCDBG BLOCK GRANT:

Anne Mackiewicz, Director of the Child Care Resource and Referral agency, discussed the CCDBG Block Grant, which is a TANF Program, which supports childcare to working parents. This program is in dire need of support from the citizens and senators for Carbon and Emery County. The agency has been in contact with the various senators representing Utah and as of to date no letters of support toward this program have been received. Without those letters the senators have indicated that this program will not receive support. She asked the council members to write letters in support of the CCDBG grant. Norman Johnson asked Anne to give a listing of those who need to be contacted and Mary Zorn will send this listing out with the minutes. Becky Shipp from Senator Hatch's office indicated that the best way to receive this information currently is to fax the letters of support. The mail in Washington DC is still undergoing a very cautious review because of the events of September 11.

Peggy Harrison and Marreen Casper, Staff Members of Senator Hatch's office, expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the council and for having them attend. They indicated that the promotion of the SEUSBIF project is impressive. They again recommended faxing letters to the senators in Utah rather than sending to Washington DC.

Council of Councils on October 10&11th in Cedar City. Norman encouraged that the members that can attend will benefit from the programs and activities.

ADJOURNED.